

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application is a national stage entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 from International Application No. PCT/EP01/04130, filed April 10, 2001, in the European Patent Office; additionally, Applicants claim the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. MI2000A000841, filed April 14, 2000, in the Italian Patent Office; further, Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/231,698, filed September 11, 2000, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; the contents of all of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

Page 1, line 14, add section subheading --Description of the Related Art-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "European patent application No. 99.830189.9"

Page 3, line 14, add section heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The object of the present invention"

Page 4, line 32, add section heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Further characterising features"

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